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Media Release



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Chief of Police

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Contact: Sergeant Maria Hawke

Armed Robbery Investigation and Arrest Regal Dry Cleaning - 3955 E. Speedway

On August 26, 2011 at approximately 11:28 AM, the Tucson Police Department received notification of an armed robbery incident that occurred at the **Regal Dry Cleaning business located at 3955 E. Speedway**. Initial information indicated that a male carrying a **handgun** robbed the business before leaving in a vehicle, described as a **white, Mercury Cougar**. Officers responded to the incident location and arrived within 4 minutes. As officers were responding to the business, the vehicle description was broadcast over the police radio. It should be noted that it was later determined that two males entered the business. A sole, adult male employee and one adult male customer were in the business when the incident occurred. Both were made to lie on the ground as the suspects obtained an undisclosed amount of money from the till. As they were leaving, one of the males stomped on the customer's head, causing injury to his head and face. The customer was transported to a hospital for treatment.

Officers responding to the initial incident location spotted the vehicle in the area of E. Pima and N. Columbus approximately 2 minutes after the robbery incident occurred. They began to follow the vehicle as it traveled eastbound on E. Pima. The officers activated their overhead, emergency lights and gave audible "chirps" using the police siren in an attempt to get the driver to pull to the side of the road and stop. The vehicle did not stop and instead sped up. At that point, officers requested and were given authorization to pursue the vehicle due to the dangerous nature of the offense committed at Regal Dry Cleaning. The suspect vehicle continued to speed up, and officers pursued it in marked patrol vehicles. At one point, the vehicle was on E. Grant and then N. Swan, driving into opposing traffic lanes. Officers requested and obtained authorization to deploy a P.I.T. (Pursuit Intervention Technique) maneuver. The P.I.T. maneuver was deployed successfully, and the suspect vehicle ultimately came to a stop near the intersection of N. Swan and E. Bermuda.

Immediately upon stopping, the driver of the suspect vehicle exited the vehicle and began running. A short foot pursuit ensued, and officers quickly apprehended him a short distance (approximately 50 yards) away. Officers detained the front seat passenger of the suspect vehicle as he was attempting to exit the vehicle via the driver's side door. The rear seat passenger of the

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suspect vehicle successfully exited the vehicle by climbing out the front passenger window. He also began to run on foot from the vehicle, but officers very quickly apprehended him approximately 50 yards away. All three occupants of the suspect vehicle were male. They were later identified as **Juan A. Valenzuela (40-years old), Steven Soto (40-years old), and Macho J. Williams (35-years old)**. All of the arrestees were charged with 1 count each of **Armed Robbery and Aggravated Robbery**. Mr. Williams was additionally charged with 1 count each of **Aggravated Assault, Kidnapping, and Prohibited Possessor**. Mr. Soto was additionally charged with 1 count of **Fleeing From a Law Enforcement Officer**. Mr. Valenzuela was additionally charged with 1 count each of **Aggravated Assault** as well as for an outstanding warrant for **Probation Violation** stemming from an original Aggravated Assault charge. All will be booked into the Pima County Jail. Photographs of the arrestees will be released once they are available.

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